

CUNO-330.2
10/764,717

PATENT

(MPEP § 806.05(e).) In the instant case, the Examiner found that the process of Group 1b can be practiced by another materially different apparatus, e.g. one that does not require the adapter member having a sealing structure operatively positioned on the outer surface of the adapter member for removably, sealingly interfacing with the inner surface of the liquid outlet of the apparatus of Group 1a.

Thus, because the inventions were found to be distinct for the reasons given above and having acquired a separate status in the art, as shown by their different classification, the searching required for the respective groups is not necessarily required by each of the other groups and, and their divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes was determined to be proper by the Examiner.

Accordingly, in response to the Restriction Requirement, Applicants hereby elect the invention of Group 1a defined by Claims 1-8, 10-12, 14-15, 25-27, 29-31, 33-35, 37 and 44-45, drawn to an apparatus for handling filter disks. Applicants reserve the right to elect and prosecute the non-elected claim in a co-pending application to be filed at a later date.

Based upon the foregoing, early and favorable consideration of Claims 1-8, 10-12, 14-15, 25-27, 29-31, 33-35, 37 and 44-45 is respectfully requested.

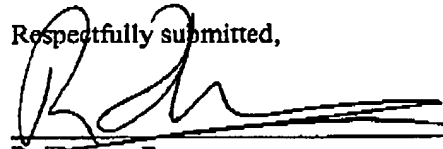
If after reviewing this Restriction Requirement, should the Examiner have questions or require additional information, he is cordially invited to call the undersigned attorney.

No fee is believed due for filing this response. However, if it is determined that a fee is required, please charge Deposit Account No. 033879.

Date:

9/23/05

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to (571) 273-8300 at: Mail Stop: Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated below.

Date

9-26-2005


Mary Rudaitis